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# Fulbright, Thurmond Clash on Speech Memo

By the Associated Press

Two Democratic Senators are at odds over a confidential memorandum from one of them to the Defense Department. Principals in the case are Senators Fulbright of Arkansas and Thurmond of South Carolina.

Senator Fulbright said yesterday that he had sent the memo to Secretary of Defense McNamara objecting to military sponsorship of meetings featuring "extremist speeches" by outsiders.

"The point I wanted to make," Senator Fulbright said, "was that it is not the traditional role of the military to sponsor meetings weighted to one side of a political subject."

Senator Thurmond, at a news conference following Senator Fulbright's remarks, denounced the memorandum as "a dastardly attempt to intimidate the commanders of United States armed forces."

Senator Fulbright said the principal theme of some meetings sponsored by generals and admirals has been "that the greatest danger to this country is internal communism, and that communism has infiltrated our schools and our churches and dominates our Government."

## Restrictions Followed

Senator Thurmond, a major general in the Army reserves, termed the memo an effort to prevent United States commanders from teaching their troops "the nature of the menace of world communism."

The memorandum was followed by new Defense Department restrictions on top military men, instructing them to stick to military matters in their public speeches.

Senator Thurmond said: "In the Defense Department among military personnel has been the real bastion of knowledge and understanding of the Communist threat, an understanding and knowledge long since lacking in the White House, the State Department and other agencies of the national Government. If we are to judge by our actions."

"The dissemination of the military's dissemination of this knowledge would be disastrous."

Senator Fulbright said the memo was prepared for his personal use. He said of the Foreign Relations Committee,

of which he is chairman, but was in no sense a committee document.

He said he sent copies to President Kennedy as well as to Mr. McNamara and believed "someone at the Pentagon" had leaked its contents.

When reporters asked for a copy, Senator Fulbright said he did not know where they could get one "unless you get it from the Defense Department—they apparently have duplicating facilities."

Senator Thurmond said he was relieved to learn that the Foreign Relations Committee had not joined "in this damaging action." Senator Thurmond is a member of the Armed Services Committee, but not of Senator Fulbright's group.

Senator Fulbright said, he took the position that extremist speakers and societies have a right to say what they like but that "the whole point of this memorandum is that the military should not be the sponsor or lend its prestige to such meetings."

## Has No Quarrel

He said he had no quarrel with military officers instructing their own personnel on the menace of communism but added:

"It is traditional that the military is not the agency that instructs the American people." Senator Thurmond said he felt many United States policies smack of appeasement. He mentioned the continued suspension of nuclear weapons testing, lack of adequate power behind the Cuban invasion, and lack of recognizing Outer Mongolia.

Asked if he would term Senator Fulbright an appeaser, Senator Thurmond said he had no comment on individuals or personalities.

"If what I say affects anybody," he added, "it is just too bad."

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